TORAH READING

TORAH READING: OFFERING/DECLINING ALIYA

Consecutive Aliyot for Family Members

Consecutive *aliyot* (going up to the *Torah* during *Torah* reading) should not be given to brothers or to a father and son unless the *aliyot* are from different *Torah* scrolls. This is a custom.

Declining an Aliya

You should not decline an *aliya*, if one is offered to you.

TORAH READING: THE BIMA

Shortest Route to Bima

When you go up to the *Torah*, take the shortest route to the *bima*. This is a non-binding custom, not a *halacha*.

Stand on Bima after Aliya

After getting an *aliya* to the *Torah*, stand on the *bima* until the next *aliya* has ended. This is to show respect for the *Torah* and not appear to be running away.

Returning to your Seat after Aliya

When you go back to your seat after an *aliya* to the *Torah*, take the longer way around the *bima*--even if it is inconvenient or you want to avoid someone who is along the way back to your seat.

TORAH READING: SAYING TORAH BLESSINGS

When Saying Torah Blessing

When called to the *Torah*, either:

- Say the blessing while looking to the side of the *Torah*, or
- Roll the *Torah* together before you say the blessing.

How Loud To Say Torah Blessings

Say the blessings over the *Torah* loudly enough for everyone to hear and respond "*amen*."

TORAH READING: WHAT TO DO WHILE ON BIMA

Torah Reading: What To Do While on Bima

The *oleh* (person who gets the *aliya*) should lightly hold on to the handle of the *Torah*.
The *oleh* should read the *Torah* quietly along with the reader (*ba'al koreh*).

TORAH READING: ALIYA DONATION

Donation after Aliya

If you receive an *aliya* to the *Torah* on *Shabbat* and *Jewish festival* mornings, it is customary give a donation to the *synagogue*, but you are not required to do so by *halacha* (and you may not give the donation ON *Shabbat*!).

NOTE A *synagogue* may request a donation on *Shabbat* or *Jewish festivals* from someone who has received an *aliya* on *Shabbat* and may give that person a card to mail in after *Shabbat* has ended.

NOTE There is no expectation of giving a donation for *aliyot* on weekdays or at *mincha* on *Shabbat*.

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